

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/626,300

Examiner

Zeev Kitov

Applicant(s)

RICHIE ET AL.

Art Unit

2836

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 09/12/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 - 4, 6 - 9, 58, 60 - 64.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>09/12/06</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner acknowledges submission on September 12, 2006 of the RCE request after allowance, which includes the new IDS to be considered. An Office Action follows.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

An amended independent Claim 1 discloses an ionization system, which inter alia, includes communication lines for electrically connecting the plurality of emitter modules with the system controller, the communication lines being connected in a daisy-chain manner to each of the emitter modules, the communication lines providing both communication and power to the emitter modules. The closest reference for the claim is Breidegam et al., which discloses some elements of the claim such as: a plurality of emitter modules spaced around the area, each emitter module including at least one electrical ionizer; a system controller for individually addressing and monitoring the emitter modules; and inherently includes lines for electrically connecting the plurality of emitter modules with the system controller. However, it does not disclose the communication lines being connected in a daisy-chain manner to each of the emitter modules and providing both communication and power to the emitter modules.

Another independent Claim 8 includes, inter alia, a following limitation: a remote control transmitter having an emitter address setting and a balance adjustment function, each emitter module further including a stored balance reference value and a remote control receiver electrically connected to the balance reference value and responsive to

the remote control transmitter, wherein the remote control transmitter allows the balance reference value of each emitter module to be individually adjusted.

Regarding Claim 8, Breidegam et al. disclose the system controller including equivalent means for individually monitoring each emitter module. It further implicitly discloses an ion output current reference value being stored somewhere in the system, i.e. alarm limits (threshold) and monitoring the ion output current reference values. However, it does not disclose each monitored element (emitter module) having a stored balance reference value and monitoring the emitters for the stored balance reference values.

The following IDS references are pertinent to Claim 8: JP 03-266398, NilStat system 5084 Data Sheet, and Clean Room Catalog. These references disclose in general the ionizers having emitters and balancing the ionic emission. However, none of them disclose control of emitters by changing the balance reference value of the individual emitters. In the invented system, instead of directly setting the remote emitter balance, the central control unit remotely changes the balance reference of the individual emitters, thus allowing the emitters to perform a balancing function themselves based on a new balance reference.

An independent Claim 9 includes limitation similar to Claim 8 but presented in a rephrased form.

An independent Claim 58 includes, inter alia, following limitation: a remote control having an emitter address setting and a transmitter, the remote control transmitter individually addressing each of the plurality of emitter modules to make remote

Art Unit: 2836

adjustments to the at least one operational setting of each of the plurality of emitter modules by communicating through the receiver of each of the plurality of emitter modules, the at least one operational setting including one of an output mode, an output level, an output offset, an output gain, an output balance and a calibration setting. The closest references for the Claim are Breidegam et al. and Hoigaard. Breidegam et al. disclose the ionization system having a plurality of ion emitters and sensors associated with the emitters. The sensors provide a central control unit with information regarding a local air ion balance. However, the emitters of Breidegam et al. are just remotely located metal needles supplied with a power from the central unit. The ion emitters in the Breidegam et al. system are not provided with the receivers, since the central unit directly controls the emitters. Hoigaard discloses apparatus for monitoring electrostatic discharge conditions in the room. It performs scanning a plurality of the devices located in the room, such as personal wrist strap devices, ground quality test module, tip voltage test module et c. Eventually, such system necessitates communication between the central unit and peripheral devices. However, the Breidegam system being directly controlled from the central unit does not need sophisticated communication means and therefore there is no motivation to add the transmitter and receivers to the Breidegam system.

Other independent Claims 61, 63 and 64 include similar limitations of inclusion the transmitter and the receivers into the system, which are not disclosed by the IDS references.

Art Unit: 2836

Allowability resides, at least in part, in the above-described limitations, which has not been disclosed in the Prior Art in a search.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zeev Kitov whose telephone number is (571) 272-2052. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 – 4:30. If attempts to reach examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on (571) 272 – 2800, Ext. 36. The fax phone number for organization where this application or proceedings is assigned is (571) 273-8300 for all communications.

Z.K.
09/20/2006



BRIAN SIRCUS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800